

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended): A film covered electric device comprising:

an electric device element to which a positive pole lead and a negative pole lead are connected; and

a casing film ~~having at least a metal layer and~~ comprising a thermally sealable resin layer wrapped around said electric device element such that the leads extend from at least one side of the film, the casing film laminated to each other, said casing film sandwiching said electric device element from both sides in its thickness direction with said thermally sealable resin layer being placed inside, wrapping said electric device element, and being having a thermally sealed area in which opposing surfaces of the film are thermally sealed around said electric device element to seal said electric device element with said leads extended therefrom,

wherein said casing film has a cup area for receiving said electric device element therein, whereby a thermally sealed area is positioned outside of the cup area, and disposed within a range of the thickness of the electric device element~~between both surfaces of said electric device element in the thickness direction in regard to the thickness direction of said electric device element,~~

at least one of the sides of said thermally sealed casing film, from which said leads are not extended, is formed with a ~~close-contact zone~~ between the thermally sealed area and the

electric device element, in which said casing films opposing surfaces of the casing film are
directly opposing without intervention of said electric device element and are in close-contact
with each other without being thermally sealed, ~~between said thermally sealed area and said~~
~~electric device element, and,~~

a length L2 of the contact zone in a direction along a side of the electric device element is
at least half of a length L1 $L2 \geq (1/2)L1$ is satisfied, where L1 is a distance from one end to the
other end of an inner edge of said thermally sealed area on the side formed with the contact zone,
in a direction parallel to L2 and L2 is the length of said close-contact zone in a direction along the
side formed with said close-contact zone, and

an angle formed by the surfaces of the casing film opposing each other in the contact
zone is substantially held at zero degrees at a root of the thermally sealed area.

2. (currently amended): The film covered electric device according to claim 1, wherein
said ~~close-contact~~ zone is formed at a position including a center of a range from one end to the
other end of an inner edge of said thermally sealed area on the side formed with said ~~close~~
contact zone in the direction along a side of the electric device element.

3. (currently amended): The film covered electric device according to claim 2, wherein
said ~~close-contact~~ zone is formed over the entire range from one end to the other end of the inner
edge of said thermally sealed area on the side formed with said ~~close-contact~~ zone in the
direction along a side of the electric device element.

4. (currently amended): The film covered electric device according to claim 2, wherein said ~~elose~~-contact zone has a width which continuously or discontinuously varies such that the width is largest at the center in the range from one end to the other end of the inner edge of said thermally sealed area on the side formed with said ~~elose~~-contact zone.

5. (currently amended): The film covered electric device according to claim 1, wherein said ~~elose~~-contact zone is formed along all sides of said casing film from which said leads are not extended.

6. (currently amended): The film covered electric device according to claim 1, wherein said cup area is formed on both sides surfaces of the film perpendicular to ~~in~~ the thickness direction of said electric device element.

7. (currently amended): The film covered electric device according to claim 1, wherein said ~~elose~~-contact zone has a width of 0.5 mm or more.

8. (original): The film covered electric device according to claim 1, wherein said electric device element has a thickness of 6 mm or more.

9. (original): The film covered electric device according to claim 1, wherein said electric device element is a chemical cell element or a capacitor element.

10. (currently amended): A method of manufacturing a film covered electric device, comprising the steps of:

sandwiching wrapping a casing film comprising a thermally sealable resin layer around
an electric device element to which a positive pole lead and a negative pole lead are connected
such that the leads extend from at least one side of the film ~~by a casing films having at least a~~
~~metal layer and thermally sealable resin layer laminated to each other from both sides in a~~
~~thickness direction of said electric device element;~~

thermally sealing pressing and heating opposing surfaces of the casing film at peripheral
sides of said casing film ~~which sandwiches said electric device element with said leads being~~
~~extended from said casing films~~ with a thermal sealing head to thermally seal said electric device
element within said casing film, wherein at least the last one side of the peripheral sides is
thermally sealed in a reduced pressure atmosphere; and

returning surroundings of said casing film which seals said electric device element into
an atmospheric pressure,

wherein ~~said step of thermally sealing said casing film thermally seals~~ at least one of the
sides of the film having a thermally sealed area from which said leads are not extended is sealed
by applying pressure to said casing film with ~~a~~ the thermal sealing head ~~for heating and~~

~~pressurizing said casing films being placed~~ at a position spaced apart by 2 mm or more from said electric device element,

wherein at least one of the sides of said casing film having a thermally sealed area, from which said leads are not extended, is formed with a ~~close~~ contact zone between the thermally sealed area and the electric device element, in which ~~said casing films opposing surfaces of the casing film are~~ directly opposing without intervention of said electric device element are in ~~close~~ contact with each other without being thermally sealed, ~~between said thermally sealed area and said electric device element, and~~

an angle formed by the surfaces of the casing film opposing each other in the contact zone is substantially held at zero degrees at a root of the thermally sealed area.

11. (new): The film covered electric device according to claim 1, wherein the casing film further comprises a metal layer laminated to the thermally sealable resin layer, such that the resin layer is the innermost layer of the film prior to being thermally sealed.

12. (new): The film covered electric device according to claim 1, wherein the contact zone is formed between the thermally sealed area and the cup area.

13. (new): The film covered electric device according to claim 1, wherein the opposing surfaces of the casing film in the contact zone are substantially parallel at an edge of the cup area.

14. (new): The film covered electric device according to claim 1, wherein the casing film comprises two opposing casing films sandwiching the electric device element between them.